

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
On behalf of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
and the Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee (SOCPC)

November 2017 (for reference year January 2018 - Updated April 15, 2020)

What's new in the 2018 SOC

In comparison with the 2010 SOC, the 2018 SOC had a net gain of 27 detailed occupations and 1 minor group. The net number of broad occupations fell by 2 and the number of major groups remained unchanged. The 2018 SOC system contains 867 detailed occupations, aggregated into 459 broad occupations. In turn, the SOC combines these 459 broad occupations into 98 minor groups and 23 major groups. Of the 867 occupations in the 2018 structure, 382 remained completely unchanged from the 2010 SOC, 356 had at least a definition change, 131 had at least a title change, and 115 had at least a code change. Most of the definition changes (254) were editorial revisions or clarifications that did not change occupational content. Therefore, no substantive change occurred for about 88 percent of the detailed occupations in the 2010 SOC.

Occupational areas with significant revisions and additions included

- Information technology (minor group 15-1200 Computer Occupations) and
- Healthcare (major groups 29-0000 Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations and 31-0000 Healthcare Support Occupations)

The seven detailed occupations in Table 1 moved from one major group in the 2010 SOC to a different major group in 2018 and received new 2018 SOC codes as a result.

Table 1. Detailed occupations that moved from one major group to another

<i>2018 SOC code</i>	<i>2018 SOC Title</i>
19-5011	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists
19-5012	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians
27-3092	Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners
31-1122	Personal Care Aides
47-5022	Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining
47-5044	Loading and Moving Machine Operators, Underground Mining
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers

The minor group “Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians” (19-5000) moved into major group “Life, Physical and Social Science Occupations” (19-0000) from its former location as a broad occupation, “Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians” (29-9010 in the 2010 SOC) in the major group “Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations” (29-0000). Four detailed occupations moved across minor groups: “Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary” (25-9044, formerly 25-1191), “Dental Hygienists” (29-1292, formerly 29-2021), “Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators” (51-9161, formerly 51-4011), and Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers (51-9162, formerly 51-4012).

The major group level title for “Education, Training, and Library Occupations” (25-0000) changed to “Educational Instruction and Library Occupations” to clarify that not all personnel at education institutions should be placed in major group 25-0000 (e.g. school principals are in major group 11-0000), and that other types of instructors, such as flight instructors (who are included in “Aircraft Pilots and Flight Engineers” (53-2010) and corporate trainers (who are included in “Training and Development Specialists” (13-1151), exist outside of major group 25-0000.

The minor group code for “Computer Occupations” (15-1200, formerly 15-1100) was changed to highlight the impact of the many changes made to the detailed occupations within that group on time series analysis. The minor group code and title, as well as the broad occupations included, changed with the creation of “Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides” (31-1100, formerly 31-1000), which now includes “Personal Care Aides” (31-1122, formerly 39-9021).

Seventy detailed occupations are new to the 2018 SOC. The 32 detailed occupations in Table 2 resulted from splitting existing detailed 2010 SOC occupations into more than one detailed 2018 SOC occupation.

Table 2. Occupations new to the 2018 SOC due to breakouts of 2010 SOC detailed occupations

<i>2018 SOC code</i>	<i>2018 SOC Title</i>
11-2032	Public Relations Managers
11-2033	Fundraising Managers
11-3012	Administrative Services Managers
11-3013	Facilities Managers
13-2022	Appraisers of Personal and Business Property
13-2023	Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate
13-2054	Financial Risk Specialists
15-1243	Database Architects
15-1253	Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers
15-1255	Web and Digital Interface Designers
19-3033	Clinical and Counseling Psychologists
19-3034	School Psychologists
19-4012	Agricultural Technicians
19-4013	Food Science Technicians
25-2055	Special Education Teachers, Kindergarten
25-2056	Special Education Teachers, Elementary School
25-9042	Teaching Assistants, Preschool, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary School, Except Special Education
25-9043	Teaching Assistants, Special Education
25-9049	Teaching Assistants, All Other
29-1242	Orthopedic Surgeons, Except Pediatric
29-1243	Pediatric Surgeons
29-1249	Surgeons, All Other

29-2042	Emergency Medical Technicians
29-2043	Paramedics
39-1014	First-Line Supervisors of Entertainment and Recreation Workers, Except Gambling Services
47-5022	Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining
53-1043	First-Line Supervisors of Material-Moving Machine and Vehicle Operators
53-1044	First-Line Supervisors of Passenger Attendants
53-1049	First-Line Supervisors of Transportation Workers, All Other
53-3051	Bus Drivers, School
53-3053	Shuttle Drivers and Chauffeurs
53-3054	Taxi Drivers

Table 3 presents the 27 new 2018 SOC detailed occupations that stemmed from splitting out occupations within 2010 SOC “All Other” occupations.

Table 3. Occupations new to the 2018 SOC due to breakouts of 2010 SOC “All Other” occupations

<i>2018 SOC code</i>	<i>2018 SOC Title</i>
11-9072	Entertainment and Recreation Managers, Except Gambling
11-9179	Personal Service Managers, All Other
13-1082	Project Management Specialists
15-2051	Data Scientists
17-3028	Calibration Technologists and Technicians
19-4044	Hydrologic Technicians
25-3031	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term
25-3041	Tutors
27-2091	Disc Jockeys, Except Radio
27-4015	Lighting Technicians
29-1212	Cardiologists
29-1213	Dermatologists
29-1214	Emergency Medicine Physicians
29-1217	Neurologists
29-1222	Physicians, Pathologists
29-1224	Radiologists
29-1229	Physicians, All Other
29-1241	Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric
29-1291	Acupuncturists
29-2036	Medical Dosimetrists
29-9021	Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars
29-9093	Surgical Assistants
33-1091	First-Line Supervisors of Security Workers
33-9094	School Bus Monitors
39-4012	Crematory Operators

41-3091	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel
53-6032	Aircraft Service Attendants

Eleven 2018 SOC detailed occupations resulted from combinations of existing 2010 SOC detailed occupations, such as “Software Developers” (15-1252) which combined “Software Developers, Applications” (15-1132 in the 2010 SOC) and “Software Developers, Systems Software” (15-1133 in the 2010 SOC). Other occupations that resulted from combining existing 2010 detailed occupations are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Occupations new to the 2018 due to combining existing detailed 2010 SOC occupations

<i>2018 SOC code</i>	<i>2018 SOC Title</i>
15-1252	Software Developers
25-4022	Librarians and Media Collections Specialists
27-3023	News Analysts, Reporters, and Journalists
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers
39-1013	First-Line Supervisors of Gambling Services Workers
45-3031	Fishing and Hunting Workers
47-5044	Loading and Moving Machine Operators, Underground Mining
51-9124	Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
51-9161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators
51-9162	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers
53-4022	Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators and Locomotive Firers

Multiple codes contained in the 2010 SOC will no longer appear in the 2018 SOC due to structural changes stemming from the merging, breaking out, or collapsing of detailed occupations. A complete list of the codes deleted from the 2010 SOC is available at: <https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/home.htm>.